

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: STRIKE OVER ANTI-INFLATION BOARD ROLL BACK

RULED LEGAL

1. IN PRECEDENT-SETTING DECISION CANADA LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD (CLRB) HAS RULED THAT WAGE ROLL BACK ORDERED BY ANTI-INFLATION BOARD (AIB) INVALIDATES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT THEREBY LEAVING TRADE UNION IN LEGAL POSITION TO STRIKE IN PROTEST OVER AIB DECISION. CLRB, WHOSE JURISDICTION IS LIMITED TO CASES FALLING UNDER FEDERAL LABOR LAW, REJECTED APPLICATION BY CYPRUS ANVIL MINING CORP. IN YUKON TERRITORY TO RULE AGAINST TWO STEELWORKERS UNION LOCALS WHICH LAUNCHED STRIKE SEVEN WEEKS AGO TO PROTEST AIB DECISION TO ROLL BACK 36.5 PERCENT AND 10.43 PERCENT WAGE INCREASES IN TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT INITIALLY TO 9.1 PERCENT AND 10 PERCENT. AFTER JOINT APPEAL BY EMPLOYER AND UNION AIB SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED ALLOWABLE INCREASES TO 14 PERCENT AND 10 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. LENGTHY WORKSTOPPAGE IS INTENDED TO PUT PRESSURE ON COMPANY TO SUPPORT UNION APPEAL TO AIB ADMINISTRATOR IN HOPES OF HAVING ALL OR AT LEAST PART OF ROLL BACK RESCINDED.

2. COMMENT: STEELWORKERS UNION AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS WILL HAIL THIS DECISION AS IMPORTANT VICTORY.

AIB REP IN BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WAGE/PRICE CONTROL PROGRAM WILL HENCEFORTH SUFFER.

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HOWEVER, IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER PROVINCIAL LABOR

RELATIONS BOARDS WILL FOLLOW FEDERAL PRECEDENT.
FURTHERMORE, OTHER UNIONS MAY SHY AWAY FROM USING
STRIKE WEAPON TO PROTEST AIB DECISION, PARTICULARLY
IF EMPLOYER HAD JOINED UNION IN CHANNELNGING AIB
RULING AS SOME HAVE ALREADY DONE. ONCE ANTI-INFLATION
ADMINISTRATOR HAS RULED ON AIB RECOMMENDATION,
FURTHER STRIKE ACTION WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING.
ENDERS

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